INCUMBERED ESTATES COMMISSION (IRELAND).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 6 June 1851;—*for*,

COPY "of any STATEMENT addressed to the Chief Secretary for *Ireland*, from the Commissioners of Incumbered Estates in that Country, with reference to an Order of this House, dated the 11th day of March last."

THE following is a Copy Order of the House of Commons, which it is supposed the Commissioners have not complied with:—

"*Martis*, 11° *die Martii*, 1851.

"*Ordered*, That there be laid before this House a Return of all Estates in Ireland, on which the Quit and Crown Rents were purchased by the Commissioners for the Sale of Incumbered Estates, specifying the Rate of Purchase, and also the Number of Years' Purchase at which such Estates were sold."

In compliance with the first part of the foregoing order, the Commissioners furnished a return, dated 19 April last, specifying the name of the owner of each estate on which the quit-rents were purchased, the amount of quit-rents so purchased in each case, and the amount of the purchase-money thereof respectively; in fact, there is an uniform scale upon which all quit-rents are allowed to be redeemed.

The amount of the quit-rent and of the purchase-money in each instance having been specified, it is difficult to imagine in what respect the return of the Commissioners failed to be a substantial compliance with the first part of the order above referred to.

With respect to the second portion of the order, requiring a return of the number of years' purchase at which such estates were sold, the Commissioners were unable to comply therewith, for the following reasons:

1. Because no basis was given upon which it was proposed that the required calculation should be founded. Perhaps the parties who object to the return may not be aware that the particulars, as prepared and published, of property to be sold by the Commissioners, generally set out,

First, the old rental which represents the rents at which the property had been theretofore let;

Next, the Ordnance or Griffith's valuation;

Next, the Poor-law valuation; and

Next, a valuation made by the Surveyor by whom the property has been surveyed, or by some other person.

Now the order of the House of Commons does not state according to which of those several specifications the required calculation of the number of years' purchase is to be made by the Commissioners, or whether it was intended to be based on the net income actually received from the estate *communibus annis*; or whether any and what deduction was to be made for annuities, or other charges, to which the estate was sold subject.

2. It very frequently happens that the mansion house and demesne, or other portion of the lands to be sold are in the occupation of the owner, who, of course, is not set down in the rental as paying any rent, and *quoad* such portion of the lands no calculation could be made according to the rental; either the estimated value of such portion of the property, or Griffith's valuation, or the Poor-law valuation must be resorted to in all such cases.

3. It very generally happens that lots are sold, subject to life or other annuities, and no directions are given in the order of the House of Commons as to the manner in which such cases are to be dealt with, or whether any allowance is to be made on account of the property being sold subject to such charges.

4. It

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4. It is almost invariably the case (and it is generally this circumstance that induces the Commissioners to order the redemption of the quit-rents) that the quit-rent redeemed extends over several lots, and those lots are generally sold at different rates of purchase to different persons; and

5. It would be impossible to ascertain what lots in particular have been subject to the quit rent redeemed in each case, without examining the conveyances and reperusing the abstracts of title, which would be a work of great labour, and would at the present juncture very much impede the public business of the Incumbered Estates Commissioners.

For these several reasons, and more especially as the order specifies no basis upon which the number of years' purchase is to be calculated, the Commissioners found it impossible to comply with the portion of the order last alluded to; but the Commissioners beg to call attention to a previous order of the House of Commons, dated the 17th March last, a copy of which is annexed, and which it will be found required a return of the most minute character. And to that order the Commissioners have made a very full and ample return; and in which return there is set out the precise sum for which each lot was sold, and also, as far as could be done, the rental of each property as returned to the Commissioners, or the estimated value thereof, together with every other particular within the knowledge of the Commissioners, which was likely to be of any public interest.

(signed) *John Richards.*
Mountifort Longfield, LL.D.
Charles James Hargreave.

Incumbered Estates Commission,
3 June 1851.

(A true copy.)

G. Trundle.

INCUMBERED ESTATES COMMISSION (IRELAND).

COPY of STATEMENT addressed to the Chief Secretary for *Ireland*, from the Commissioners of Incumbered Estates in that Country, with reference to an Order of the House of Commons, dated 11 March 1851.

(Mr. Morgan John O'Connell.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
13 *June* 1851.

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